HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, PHD

Banner Code: HH-PHD-HSR

Alison Cuellar, PhD; Program Coordinator

Website: https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/graduate-advising#hap

The purpose of the PhD program in Health Services Research is to prepare graduates to be scholars, educators, researchers, and leaders in higher education, health care and service organizations, health care consulting firms, government and nonprofit organizations, and private businesses that support or regulate the health service industry. The degree has the following two specialized programs of study (concentrations):

• Knowledge Discovery and Health Informatics
• Health Systems and Policy

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Requirements
Students must have a master’s degree or other advanced degree (i.e., MD, JD, PhD or equivalent) from a regionally-accredited institution before being admitted to the 72-credit PhD program.

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions and must apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid). For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the CHHS Admissions website (https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines).

Policies

Reduction of Credit
Students who enter with a master’s or other advanced degree may have the credit requirement reduced by up to 30 credits for previous coursework that closely corresponds with doctoral program requirements. The credit reduction decision will be made by the doctoral advisor and requires approval of the doctoral program director. Requests for reduction of credit are reviewed only after acceptance to the doctoral program.

Time Requirements
Students must complete all requirements for the PhD in Health Services Research within 9 calendar years from the time of first enrollment as a doctoral student in the program or with provisional status. PhD students are expected to progress steadily toward their degree and to complete all coursework and comprehensive and field exams in order to advance to candidacy within no more than 6 years.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research and Computational Methods Domain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 719</td>
<td>Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 760</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science in Health Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 819</td>
<td>Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 835</td>
<td>Causal Inference in Health Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge Discovery and Health Informatics Domain</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 671</td>
<td>Health Care Databases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 720</td>
<td>Health Data Integration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 780</td>
<td>Data Mining in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Systems and Policy Domain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 715</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 742</td>
<td>Health Policy Development and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 868</td>
<td>Advanced Research Seminar in Health Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
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Concentration and Electives
Students take additional courses in one of two concentration domains: Knowledge Discovery and Health Informatics or Health Systems and Policy. Doctoral-level electives outside of CHHS or concentration-related content areas may be taken as approved by the student’s academic advisor. A maximum of 6 credits of 600-level courses may be applied to the degree.

Concentration in Knowledge Discovery and Health Informatics (KDHI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAP 618</td>
<td>Computational Tools in Health Informatics</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 672</td>
<td>Health Data: Vocabulary and Standards</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 730</td>
<td>Health Care Decision Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 745</td>
<td>Health Care Security Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 752</td>
<td>Advanced Health Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 770</td>
<td>Medical Decision Making and Decision Support Systems</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 823</td>
<td>Comparative Effectiveness Analysis using Observational Data</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 925</td>
<td>Advanced Methods in Qualitative Research for Health Care</td>
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</table>
Dissertation

After advancement to candidacy, the HSR PhD student must complete an approved dissertation. The student must seek and obtain the approval of the HSR PhD Program Director on the selection of his/her Dissertation Chair and committee members. The committee must have at least three members, each of which must be a full-time member of the graduate faculty. The Chair must hold an appointment in the Department of Health Administration and Policy (HAP) and be approved by the Program Director. The second member of the dissertation committee must be a member of either the HAP Department or the College of Health and Human Services, and the third member of the committee must be from the College or other academic unit at George Mason University. A fourth member of the committee may be appointed, from another academic unit or from outside Mason, with the approval of the Program Director.

Within six months of passing the comprehensive examinations, the student must submit a draft dissertation proposal to the Dissertation Chair and committee. The proposal shall describe the proposed research as directed by the Chair and Committee. Failure to submit the proposal in a timely manner is grounds for academic probation. The proposal must provide a detailed literature review that provides the context and rationale for the research objectives, state the dissertation objective(s), and describe the proposed study design and analytic methods. An oral proposal defense must be scheduled with dissertation committee members who have agreed to serve. During the oral proposal defense, the student will describe their proposed research and address questions by the committee members. At the oral defense, the Dissertation Committee determines approval or disapproval of the proposal. Committee disapproval is accompanied by written recommendations for improving the proposed research with expectations for resubmission.

Comprehensive Exams

Two comprehensive examinations will determine whether the student has the necessary knowledge and skills to undertake dissertation work. These examinations must be taken within one year of completion of all coursework (except for dissertation sequence courses).

Advancement to Candidacy

Students who complete all core and concentration course requirements, pass the comprehensive exams, and successfully defend the dissertation proposal advance to candidacy. A student must advance to candidacy status before taking the dissertation courses.

Dissertation Sequence Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAP 998</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 999</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation (at least 6 credits)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 12